

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 SCS-03 OC-06

CCO-00 SY-05 A-01 PER-01 PC-01 /090 W

-----105801 182206Z /65

O R 182129Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5757

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 6018

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CASC, PE

SUBJECT: REPORT OF RIOTING IN NORTHERN PERU

REF: A) QUITO 4739; B) LIMA 5892 (NOTAL)

1. COMMUNIST LABOR FEDERATION CGTP PLANS 24-HOUR GENERAL STRIKE ON JULY 19, BUT WE ARE NOT YET IN A POSITION TO ASSESS HOW EFFECTIVE IT WILL BE. SECRETARY GENERAL OF FEDERACION DE CHOFERES ANNOUNCED JULY 18 THAT TRANSPORT WORKERS WILL NOT JOIN STRIKE, BUT SOME RANK AND FILE COULD CALL IN "SICK" TOMORROW. AS FAR AS BORDER AREA IS CONCERNED, NORTHERN PERU (AND ESPECIALY TRUJILLO) IS CONSIDERED AN APRA STRONG-HOLD AND APRA LEADERSHIP HAS THUS FAR REFUSED TO ENDORSE THE GENERAL STRIKE. HOWEVER, WE HAVE HEARD REPORTS OF CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN POLICE AND DEMONSTRATORS OVER THE WEEKEND JULY 16-17 IN THE TRUJILLO AREA. ONE MILITARY OFFICER WAS ALLEGEDLY KILLED.

2. THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN WIDESPREAD PUBLICITY TO CGTP STRIKE PLANS AND HAS WARNED THAT ENERGETIC MEASURES WOULD BE TAKEN TO PRESERVE PUBLIC ORDER. WE CANNOT, HOWEVER, RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF SPONTANEOUS ANTI-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATIONS
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AND VIOLENCE EITHER IN LIMA OR IN OTHER URBAN AREAS. PERUVIAN INVESTIGATION POLICE AND CIVIL GUARD SPOKESMAN HAVE ADVISED EMBASSY SECURITY OFFICE THAT SURFACE TRAVEL MAY BE DANGEROUS DUE TO SPONTANEOUS ROADBLOCKS IN OUTLYING AREAS AND SHOULD BE AVOIDED. EMBASSY IS ADVISING U.S. TOURISTS TO POSTPONE TRAVEL TO CUZCO UNTIL AFTER JULY 19, IF SCHEDULES ALLOW FLEXIBILITY. THE LIKELIHOOD OF VIOLENCE OVER THE NEXT 7-10 DAYS WILL

DEPAND IN LARGE PART ON POPULAR PERCEPTIONS OF HOW THE GOP IS
HANDLING THE CURRENT ECONOMIC RISIS.

3. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY HAS HAD NO REPORTS OTHER THAN YOURS ABOUT
INCIDENTS IN NORTHERN PERU DIRECTLY INVOLVING AMCITS, WE RECOMMEND
THAT ANY WHO CAN DEFER TRAVEL IN NEXT FEW DAYS DO SO, ESPECIALLY
SURFACE TRAVEL. WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO MAKE LONGER-TERM ASSESSMENT AT
THIS TIME.
SHLAUDEMAM

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NNN

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